[8th August 1929

* Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, originally I did not propose to take part in this discussion at all. I believed that the resolution before the House would be accepted when once proposed and that it did not require any argument in support of it. But having heard the hon. the Chief Minister on this point that the Government propose to sanction conveyance charges only with reference to one or two districts and one or two schools only, I feel impelled to have my say on the matter. I believe the hon. the Chief Minister is aware of the tremendous difficulties under which the training school at Trichinopoly is working. The working of the school has suffered a great deal on account of this non-provision of conveyance charges. This matter has been before the Government for several years past. Now I hear the Chief Minister is going to make provision for the same in the Trichinopoly Training School and I am glad of it. But what I submit is that invidious distinctions of this sort between one school and another or one district and another should not be made. The Government should, without any hesitation or further delay, adopt a general principle of sanctioning conveyance charges to these Muslim schools wherever existing and attended by girls above 8 years of age. They ought not to make any distinction of any sort. I therefore support the motion before the House."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Sir, I move that the question be now put."

The closure motion was put and carried.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I say a word, Sir? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Our Standing Orders do not provide for the Mover to make a reply when closure has been accepted. When closure was applied, the hon. Member ought to have cried loudly 'No' if he desired to have an opportunity to reply." (Laughter.)

The resolution was put and carried.

CLOSURE OF LIQUOR SHOPS ON HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF ELECTION.

Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—" I move, Sir, that

'*This Council recommends to the Government that all shops kept for sale of intoxicating alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs, such as opium, ganja, etc., in the province be closed on Sundays, public holidays, and days of election to local boards, municipalities and the Legislative Council and the Assembly, and that clubs, hotels and refreshment rooms that are licensed to sell intoxicating alcoholic liquors and beverages be permitted on the abovementioned days to serve such liquors to boarders, lodgers and bona fide travellers at meal hours for consumption in the licensed premises.*'

" Sir, in our attempt to close down the liquor shops we ought to proceed very very carefully, because it affects the rights and privileges of the people. We should not rush on with our measures of reform all on a sudden. The process ought to be gradual, because if we proceed rapidly, the drinkers are apt to find some substitute for the drink they are accustomed to have, or they will resort to illicit supply. My own experience is that if people do not get the drinks they are accustomed to, they find recourse to substitutes which are injurious. So that the best way to abolish drink altogether is to start with the closing of shops once in a week and on festival days and other

8th August 1929] [Mr. R. Srinivasan]

occasions when people are likely to gather and indulge in it. According to my calculation, Sundays and other holidays in a year come to 90 days or three months. If by passing my motion we are able to wean away these people from their drinking habits for 90 days in a year, it would be a great advance.

"Sir, I have carefully omitted toddy from the scope of my motion, because it is a drink which should be available to them in the place of alcohol. Toddy is not so injurious as alcohol. A man could live on toddy for days together. Even infants are, when no milk is available, fed on toddy. Of course, I do not encourage toddy drinking ; but what I say is that something intoxicating should be available to the people and that something should be toddy as it is not injurious. There are people who take whisky and none other and there are people who take brandy and none other and there are people who take gin and gin only. They do not at all take other drinks. They may be coaxed to take milder drinks, such as beer, etc. Some people when they find that they cannot get their drinks on Sundays, stock their requirements for that day on the previous Saturday itself. But their number is very few. By saying that people may be allowed to take toddy, I do not mean to say that toddy shops should be open at all hours of the day and on all days. What I say is that we will have toddy shops open for the present and later, when we have succeeded in restricting the sale of alcoholic liquors, we can think of closing the toddy shops as well.

"Sir, people will say that if you close the shops on Sundays, men who are accustomed to drinks would buy and stock their requirements on the previous Saturday itself. That is true. But, generally, 70 per cent of the people who take to drink only think of it just when it is time for them to go to the shops and when they do not get it, they forget all about it in the next hour. So there is not much difficulty with them.

"Sir, I have to say a word about the clubs. Clubs and hotels ought to be allowed to serve them as stated in my resolution.

"Then I would like to bring one point to the notice of the House and that is that this sort of closing of liquor shops on Sundays and other public holidays would give a chance to the propagandists to go and preach to the people when they are sober.

"Sir, my object in bringing forward this motion is not to rush in with this reform, but to proceed step by step. If we proceed in this manner we would be able to solve the drink problem altogether."

* Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—"Sir, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution so ably moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Srinivasan, the veteran leader of the Adi-Dravidas.

"One of the reasons advanced against these measures by the people who are accustomed to drink is that by these means their privileges are denied to them. Sir, the motion has been very moderately worded so as to satisfy even people who are habitual drunkards. The Government themselves have come forward to do something in the way of propaganda. I think therefore that this is an opportune time for giving effect to a resolution of this sort. I do not like to take up much of the time of the House at this late hour as Mr. Srinivasan has fully explained the arguments in favour of the resolution, I commend it for the acceptance of the House."

[8th August 1929

4-45 p.m. * Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD :—"I have very great pleasure in supporting this motion, because it is a nice device to arrive at the desired object of total prohibition. You know that in Muslim countries the drink evil does not exist and that Muslims are teetotalers. In this connection I may remind the House how Arabia was transformed by the Prophet of Arabia. In those days people in that country were addicted to drink so much that they would sell their all for that sake. I shall tell you how the Prophet succeeded in inducing the people to give up drinking. First of all, he advised the people to give up drinking during prayers ; they easily agreed to it and acted accordingly. Then, after they became accustomed to it, he asked the people not to drink during daytime. To that also they agreed. Some time passed. Then he prohibited drinking entirely. So, step by step he succeeded in inducing the people to abstain from drinking altogether. In a similar way this resolution aims at prohibiting drinking totally in the course of a few years. I therefore have very great pleasure in supporting this motion."

Mr. M. V. GANGADHARA SIVA :—"Sir, hon. Members of the Opposition have been asking for total prohibition. I am sure that it cannot be achieved very soon, though the opposition party try their level best for such a thing. Though the resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. Srinivasan may not result in complete success, we may achieve success to a very great extent by adopting that resolution."

Mr. D. THOMAS :—"I am in entire sympathy with the object which underlies this resolution. I have no objection to the earlier portion of the resolution but to the latter part I am sorry I have to raise an objection. The earlier portion of the resolution is : 'This Council recommends to the Government that all shops kept for sale of intoxicating alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs such as opium, ganja, etc , in the province be closed on Sundays, public holidays and days of election to local boards, municipalities and the Legislative Council and the Assembly.' I should think that the latter part takes away a great deal of the virtue and integrity of the first part of the resolution. It appears to me that by the latter part of the resolution we are trying to transfer the activities from the toddy shop to the boarding house or the club."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I have got an amendment to move to that effect."

Mr. D THOMAS :—"As a practical proposition, I beg to submit that it will be very difficult to work it if it is carried. For example who is to decide the meal hour? Who is to decide whether a traveller is a bona fide traveller? The meal hour may vary with each individual. So the meal hour cannot be standardized. Then again it is very difficult to decide who are bona fide travellers. Another reason why I want the latter portion should be dropped is that even under the present conditions only those people who resort to drinks go to arrack or toddy shops. But if these shops are closed and if such drinks are allowed to be vended in clubs on holidays, even people who in the ordinary course of things do not take to drinking in the midst of people who are accustomed to drink would also become addicted to intoxicating beverages. As a matter of fact, in the mufassal very many hotels have not got licences now to sell liquors. But if this resolution is passed, it will give an incentive to them to obtain licences for ending these liquors. I therefore see very many practical difficulties in

8th August 1929] [Mr. Daniel Thomas]

working the latter part of the resolution if it is carried. I would therefore commend to the hon. Mover of the resolution to withdraw its latter part."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"As Mr. Nagan Gowda is ill and consequently is not able to move the amendment which stands in his name, may I ask your permission to allow me to move that amendment?"

The House assenting, the hon. Member moved the amendment.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I beg to move the amendment standing in the name of my hon. Friend Mr. Nagan Gowda which runs as follows :—

'*That all the words occurring after the word "Assembly" in the resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. Srinivasan be omitted. The resolution will run thus :—*

"*This Council recommends to the Government that all shops kept for sale of intoxicating alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs such as opium, ganja, etc., in the province be closed on Sundays, public holidays and days of election to the local boards, municipalities and the Legislative Council and the Assembly*".'

"Mr. President, after the speech of my hon. Friend Mr. Daniel Thomas, I have very little to say to commend this amendment for the acceptance of the House. I have very great pleasure in moving it."

Mr C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I second it."

* Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—"I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. In this country under the law licences to Indian clubs and refreshment rooms for selling alcoholic liquors are not easily given. Licences are granted to European hotels and clubs. Even if they are given, the Police authorities take very great care to watch them. If any traveller arrives in a European hotel, the hotel-keepers will naturally understand who is a stranger and who is not. They know their own boarders and lodgers and there will not be much difficulty in differentiating between strangers and others. I should therefore press my resolution as it is for the acceptance of the House."

The amendment was put and declared carried.

A poll was demanded and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi.
2. Mr. A. B. Shetty.
3. ,, P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai.
4. ,, T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
5. ,, K. Krishnan.
6. ,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
7. ,, W. P. A. Soundara Pandian.
8. ,, Daniel Thomas.
9. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
10. ,, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
11. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
12. ,, Abdul Hameed Khan.
13. ,, M. Narayana Rao.
14. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
15. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
16. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
17. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar
18. Mr. Ahmed Miran Sahib.
19. ,, A. Kaleswara Rao.
20. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
21. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
22. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
23. ,, B. Venkataratnam.
24. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
25. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
26. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
27. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
28. ,, C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
29. ,, T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
30. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.
31. The Maharaja of Pithapuram.

[8th August 1929

Noes.

1. Mr. N. Siva Raj.
2. ,, M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
3. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
4. ,, S. Venkiah.
5. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
6. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
7. ,, S. Satyamurti.

Neutral.

1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
2. ,, Sir Thomas Moir.
3. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
4. ,, Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Mr. Hilton Brown.
9. ,, H. A. Watson.
10. ,, A. G. Leach.
11. ,, J. Gray.
12. ,, S. V. Ramamurti.
13. ,, C. B. Cotterell.
14. ,, V. Ch. John.
15. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
16. Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
17. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur.
18. Mr. J. Bheemayya.
19. ,, R. Foulkes.
20. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
21. The Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara alias Kumaran Raman.
22. Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju.
23. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
24. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
25. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
26. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
27. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
28. ,, K. R. Karant.
29. ,, K. Uppi Sahib.
30. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
31. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddiyar.
32. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.

(While counting of votes was going on) Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know what will be the result of the voting if the number of neutral members is larger than that of *ayes* and *noes* ?"

Ayes 31. *Noes* 7. *Neutral* 32.

The amendment was carried.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.